

**Remarks**

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application.

The Office Action states that restriction is required under 35 USC §§ 121 and 372 and that applicant is required to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

The Office Action states that there are eight (8) groups of claims:

- Group I: claim 1.
- Group II: claims 2 and 3.
- Group III: claims 4-7 and 21.
- Group IV: claim 8.
- Group V: claims 9-12.
- Group VI: claims 13-15.
- Group VII: claims 16-19 and 22.
- Group VIII: claims 23 and 24.

In response to the present restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully elect Group V, claims 9-12, without traverse.

**Conclusion**

Applicants submit that claims 1-24 distinguish patentably and non-obviously over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

If any extension of time is necessary in connection with this Response A, Applicants hereby petition for such extension. If any fees are due in connection with this Response A, the authorization to charge deposit account 14-1270 for the fees associated therewith is hereby provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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